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UTTOXETER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
and of the Senior Sanitary
Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1955

AUGUST, 1956



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ANNUAL REPORT

Council Offices,
Holly Dene,
High Street,
Uttoxeter, Staffs.

August, 1956.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Uttoxeter Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Uttoxeter Rural District for the year 1955.

This report is prepared on the lines indicated by the Minister in the Ministry of Health Circular 17/55 (England), dated the 23rd November, 1955.

Vital Statistics

In the Uttoxeter Rural District the Birth Rate of 16 per 1,000 estimated civilian population was higher than the birth rate 15 per 1,000 of the population of the country as a whole, and higher than that recorded in the Rural District for 1954. The Still-birth Rate for your district was 0.26 per 1,000 of the civilian population, lower than the stillbirth rate for your district last year, which was 0.36 per 1,000 estimated population.

This year I have to record that the infant death rate in your district is lower than 1954, and also that the neo-natal death rate, or the death rate of infants in the first month, is lower. This point is brought out in a table presenting together these various rates with reference to the last twelve years, which is contained in the body of this report. The decrease is due to the decrease in the number of infant deaths of one year and of under four weeks from Birth Injuries and other diseases.

In a small unit of population such as this district comprises, where the total number of births seldom exceeds 200, quite large fluctuations of infant death rates are to be expected, but, even so, it is always more satisfactory when the pendulum swings low rather than high. In 1955 there were 179 births, 83 were vaccinated, making 46.3% of all births. 17 adults were vaccinated.

The Death Rate for your district is 8.9 which is lower than the rate for 1954, 1953 and 1952. In 1955 it is lower than that for England and Wales, which is 11.7.

The Effective Reproduction Rate for England and Wales for 1955 has not been published, but from local statistics, there is a slight increase.

During 1955 78 children, under 3 years of age, received protective inoculation against Whooping Cough (15.2% of children—0 to 3).

During 1955, 179 births were recorded—109 were at home and 70 were born elsewhere—a maternity home or hospital.

Infectious Disease

Notifications were received during 1955 with respect to 349 cases of Measles, 10 cases of Scarlet Fever and 11 cases of Whooping Cough. In 1955 the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough were almost equal to that for 1954, and there was an increase in the Measles cases. No cases of acute Poliomyelitis were notified and there were 4 cases of Food Poisoning. There were no deaths from Acute Pneumonia but 3 deaths occurred from Pneumonia (Secondary).

During 1955 there were no deaths from Influenza or Primary Pneumonia.

Housing

In 1955 26 houses were completed, leaving none under construction.

Health Exhibition and Education

During 1955 no Exhibition was held ; for details of Health Education, see body of report.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

Mr. H. Nutter commenced duties in January, 1955.

Conclusion

I record personally my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kindness to me since I became the Medical Officer, and to all the officials of the Council who gave me their support and help in compiling this annual report.

I desire to draw your notice to the following facts :—

1. Decrease in the number of babies vaccinated (46.3%).
2. Number of persons per house is 3.6
3. Decrease in the number of children of all ages immunised against Diphtheria, from 64.5% to 57.1%.
4. 61% of births occurred at home.
5. Increase in Birth Rate from 14.7 to 16.
6. A decrease in Stillbirth Rate from 0.30 to 0.26.
7. A decrease in Death Rate from 9.09 to 8.9.
8. A decrease in the Infant Death Rate and a decrease in the Neo-Natal Death Rate.
9. A Weather Summary has been added, through the courtesy of Mr. S. Elkes, O.B.E., and Mr. Smith.

10. Marked increase in the number of cases of Infectious Diseases, due to epidemic of Measles.
11. It is with regret that I am unable to give all the details as regards Birth Rates, Death Rates and analysis of Mortality in certain sections of the community as the Registrar General has not issued the above details for 1955.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. W. M. BATTERSBY,

Medical Officer of Health.

UTTOXETER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman : Councillor A. J. SMITH, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : F. W. SNOW

Members

Councillor T. F. Allen*	Councillor T. H. Morris *
„ A. Birch	„ F. Noneley*
„ J. F. Birch †	„ W. A. Oldham
„ R. C. Ball	„ E. Pattinson
„ J. T. Bonsall†	„ F. J. Potts †
„ N. B. Capewell*	„ W. Ratcliffe
„ P. K. Cotterill, J.P.†	„ S. S. Robinson
„ C. A. Clowes	„ J. Salisbury†
„ A. H. F. Dawson*	„ W. Salt
„ O. G. Ede*	„ G. G. Shenton†
„ C. Green†	„ F. W. Snow, C.C.
„ E. Hudson	„ A. J. Smith
„ J. Holmes	„ E. R. Shipman*
„ J. Heath*	„ R. G. Wilson†
„ J. A. Mason	„ A. Williams†

* denotes—(from May, 1955).

† denotes—(Retired May, 1955).

Chairman of Health Committee

Councillor W. A. OLDHAM

Deputy Chairman of Health Committee

Councillor R. C. BALL

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health

A. W. M. BATTERSBY, L.R.C.P. and S., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Certified Food Inspector

A. F. WARD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

H. NUTTER, M.S.I.A. (Certified Food Inspector)

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	.....	Acres, 55,228
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population (Mid 1955)	.....	11,150
Number of In habited Houses at the end of 1955 according to the Rate Books	.....	3,050
Rateable Value	.....	£58,484
Sum represented by the product of 1d. Rate	.....	£221
Number of Persons per Acre	.....	0.20
Number of Houses per Acre	.....	0.055
Average Number of Persons per House	.....	3.66
Estimated Population to December, 1955	.....	11,224

The seventeen Parishes of the Uttoxeter Rural District comprise, in the main, agricultural communities whose principal concern is dairy and, to a lesser extent, arable farming. The three principal villages in the district are Rocester, Mayfield and Abbots Bromley, and two of these parishes offer alternative employment to agriculture. Thus there is a cotton mill at Rocester and a silk mill at Mayfield and at Rocester an Excavator Vehicle factory. In addition, quite a number of the residents in your district find work at the agricultural implement factory in Uttoxeter, at the various residential schools in the area, and on transport and other services. A proportion of the residents of your district who are not engaged in agricultural pursuits live in your district, very often at some distance from their place of occupation, because of the difficulty of obtaining housing accommodation in the urban areas adjacent to their place of employment.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

<i>Live Births</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	.....	95	77	172
Illegitimate	.....	7	Nil	7
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		102	77	179
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth Factor	.....	.....	.....	1.13
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population				16.05
				(adjusted B.R. 18.13)
<i>Still Births</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	.....	3	—	3
Illegitimate	.....	—	—	—
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births				16.4
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population				0.26

<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
	55	45	100
Death Factor .....	.....	.....	1.02
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population			8.9
			(adjusted D.R. 9.0)
Deaths from Puerperal Causes .....	.....	.....	Nil
Deaths from other Maternal Causes .....	.....	.....	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	3	1	4
	—	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year

All infants per 1,000 Live Births	22.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	23.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	1	1	2
	—	—	—

Population Estimates (Mid 1955)—

* Children, 0— 4 years	980
* „ 5—14 years	2,100

* Estimated by Statistical Method and by reference to Schools and Nurses.

(Published by permission of Registrar General).

All ages	11,150
Census (1951)	9,862
Population England and Wales	44,441,000

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Uttoxeter Rural District, 1955.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Heart Diseases	7	7	14
Cancer	8	5	13
Intra-cranial vascular leisons	8	7	15
All other causes	4	6	10
Nephritis	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Other diseases of the Circulatory System	12	15	27
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Other digestive diseases	1	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	1	1
Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—
Other Infective Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
Maternal causes	—	—	—
Road Accidents	2	—	2
Congenital malformations, birth injury and Infant Disease	1	—	1
Suicide	1	—	1
Other Accidents	4	—	4
Leukaemia	—	—	—
Diseases of Prostate	2	—	2
Gastritis and Enteritis	—	—	—
	55	45	100

Of the 100 Deaths : 65 died in their home.

35 died in Hospital.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955 AND THE TWELVE PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Rates per 1,000 Estimated Population.			Rate per 1000 Live Births .
	Birth Rate	Stillbirth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate
1955	16.05	0.26	8.9	22.3
1954	14.7	0.36	9.09	30.3
1953	13.4	0.17	7.9	26.17
1952	15.93	0.26	8.2	60.1
1951	15.9	0.26	8.5	5.78
1950	14.7	0.28	12.04	18.9
1949	15.1	0.39	9.62	37.00
1948	16.8	0.65	10.74	22.78
1947	17.7	0.10	11.00	62.90
1946	18.0	0.41	11.20	39.80
1945	19.7	1.06	14.25	37.80
1944	17.0	0.73	10.44	61.35
1943	15.8	0.82	10.90	32.70

CANCER DEATHS.

Noted below are the total annual deaths from Cancer according to sex with regard to your District during 1955, and the 12 previous years. The percentage which these Cancer deaths form of the total deaths is also shown.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Deaths</i>
1955	8	5	13	13%
1954	6	10	16	15.8%
1953	6	6	12	13.3%
1952	6	4	10	10.4%
1951	8	7	15	6.1%
1950	9	9	18	13.9%
1949	4	6	10	9.4%
1948	11	8	19	17%
1947	11	9	20	18%
1946	9	5	14	13%
1945	6	12	18	13%
1944	9	6	15	15%
1943	3	10	13	12%

Summary of Site of Cancer :

Ovary	1 Female	Colon	1 Male
Breast	2 Females	Lungs	2 Males
Stomach	4—3 Males	Others	3—2 Males and 1 Female

Cancer Death Rate (Utttoxeter)—1.17 per 1,000 population.

Cancer Death Rate (England and Wales)—15.7 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality and Neo-Natal Mortality Rates per 1,000 Live Births along with Still Birth Mortality Rates per 1,000 Still and Live Births 1946—1955.

Year	Infant Mortality Rate	Mortality Rate 1—12 months	Neo-natal Mortality Rate	Still Birth Rate
1955	22.3	22.0	11.1	16.5
1954	30.3	30.5	24.3	13.07
1953	26.17	26.3	—	12.9
1952	60.0	39.3	22.4	16.5
1951	5.78	5.78	—	22.4
1950	18.9	18.9	18.9	20.0
1949	3.7	18.86	18.86	Nil
1948	27.78	16.67	—	37.43
1947	62.9	11.47	51.43	5.4
1946	39.8	22.7	17.1	22.2

Neo-Natal Rate for England and Wales—17.3 (lowest on record).

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, and Analysis of Mortality Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—

	Uttoxeter Rural District	England and Wales
Births		
Live Births	16.05	15.0
Still Births	0.26	0.35
Deaths		
All Causes	8.9	11.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	0.001
Whooping Cough	—	0.1
Diphtheria	—	0.02
Tuberculosis	—	12.2
Influenza	—	5.6
Smallpox	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	0.05
Pneumonia	0.26	4.2
Bronchitis	0.54	1.5

Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—

Deaths		
All causes under 1 year of age	22.3	24.9
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 1 year of age	—	20.8

For England and Wales—

Births	.....	664,711
Still Births	.....	15,748
Deaths	.....	518,657
Deaths (under 1 year)	.....	16,515

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

In so far as your District is concerned, laboratory facilities were available during 1955 in the County town of Stafford, some fourteen miles distant. Specimens and samples submitted to these laboratories for investigation were transmitted mainly by 'bus, both by the Medical Practitioners in your District, and by this Department.

Ambulance Facilities

(Controlled by Area Health Committee)

During 1955 a 24-hour service has been maintained by the Staffordshire County Ambulance Service. There are six ambulance cars stationed at Uttoxeter—two can be adapted for sitting cases. And also one Civil Defence ambulance.

Since 1951 the station has been at Heath House, Uttoxeter. The staff consists of 17 men and there are three shifts of eight hours. One vehicle has been replaced during 1955 for sitting cases.

Nursing in the Home

(Controlled by Area Health Committee)

This service is carried out by the District Nurses, and one Nurse is available for each of the parishes as follows :—

- 1.—Okeover, Stanton, Mayfield, Wootton, Ramshorn and Ellastone.
- 2.—Rocester and Denstone.
- 3.—Leigh, Kingstone (Gratwich only) and Croxden.
- 4.—Uttoxeter Rural and Kingstone (except Gratwich).
- 5.—Abbots Bromley and Blithfield.
- 6.—Marchington, Draycott-in-the-Clay and Newborough.

The request for this service comes from the private doctor or from the hospital when the patient is discharged.

In most cases the nurse undertakes the duties of a general nurse, a midwife, and in some cases also carries out the duties of a Health Visitor and of School Nurse in the parish for which they are responsible.

Since 1954 the Nursing Services for the parishes of Abbots Bromley and Blithfield were undertaken by the following nurses :—

Nurse Dunn, of Abbots Bromley, for General and Midwifery Services in the village and for Blithfield.

Nurse Francis, of Stramshall, Health Visiting for the parish of Abbots Bromley and Blithfield.

HOSPITALS, TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

Hospitals

As there are no hospitals in the Uttoxeter Rural District, and as in previous years, the arrangements in this connection were as follows :—

Infectious Diseases

In 1955 most cases were treated at Bucknall Hospital, which is under the Stoke Regional Hospital Board. When no accommodation could be arranged at Bucknall the cases went to Derby Isolation Hospital.

General Medical and Surgical Cases

Patients suffering from medical and surgical conditions on account of which they required to be admitted to hospital went mainly to the Infirmarys at Derby, Stoke-on-Trent, Burton-on-Trent and Stafford. Whereas, under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary at Derby was included in the Sheffield Hospital Region, and the other three Infirmarys referred to above were situated in the Birmingham Hospital Region. Nevertheless, it is possible for patients from Uttoxeter Rural District to be admitted to any of these hospitals, irrespective of the administrative boundary.

Tuberculosis Beds

Provision for the institutional treatment of patients suffering from this disease is the responsibility of the appropriate Regional Hospital Board. The shortage of nursing staff, and especially of staff trained and willing to nurse this type of case, has been reflected in the waiting lists for sanatoria and in the difficulty which medical practitioners have experienced in having such cases removed from their homes. Your district has, of course, not suffered any more in this connection than other parts of the country. It is to be hoped, however, that the improvement in the recruitment of nurses which is now taking place will very shortly result in some alleviation of this very serious state of affairs.

Maternity and Gynaecological Cases

Maternity and Gynaecological cases were again mainly admitted to the Derbyshire Hospital for Women, the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent, and the Ashbourne Maternity Home.

Home and Domestic Help Service

(Controlled by Area Health Committee)

This is one of the services provided under the National Health Service Act, for which the Local Health Authority, with the approval of the Minister, may recover from the persons availing themselves of it such charges (if any) as the Authority considers reasonable, having regard to the means of those persons.

This entails, in those cases in which the applicant states that he is unable to pay the full amount, an assessment of income and the application of a scale which results in the charge (if any) which is made for the services of the Home Help being related to what the individual is able to pay.

Those who can pay are asked to pay, but those who cannot are not asked to pay the full charge, but only a modified charge, and in some cases pay no charge.

In the Rural area there are fourteen part-time Helps. The service has been very successful and is appreciated by those who make use of the service. The demand is gradually increasing. Twenty-five cases were dealt with during 1955.

CLINICS

Tuberculosis Dispensary

As the Uttoxeter clinic was closed in 1953, the patients now have to visit the Clinic at Stafford or Burton by appointment. The homes of the patients are now visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitors.

Minor Ailments Clinic

The local education authority, the Staffordshire County Council, during 1955 continued to provide a Minor Ailments Clinic only on Friday morning and held at Heath House Centre.

Infant Welfare Clinic

The Staffordshire County Council during 1955 as the local health authority, provided an Infant Welfare Centre in Uttoxeter at which sessions were held each Friday afternoon. Sited at Heath House since 1st October, 1951.

A Welfare Centre is held in Abbots Bromley every fortnight.

Ante-Natal Clinic

An Ante-Natal Clinic is provided in Uttoxeter in a similar manner to the Infant Welfare Centre by the Staffordshire County Council. Sessions are held fortnightly on Friday afternoons. A Midwife attends and all Midwives are invited to attend and to bring their cases.

Dental Clinic

Every Saturday morning a Dental session is held for the treatment of schoolchildren and expectant and nursing mothers.

This Clinic serves the Urban and Rural Districts of Uttoxeter and is situated at Heath House. Urgent cases can be sent besides the cases arranged to attend for treatment.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' DEPARTMENT

By arrangement between the Uttoxeter Rural and Urban District Councils, your Sanitary Inspectors have, since January 1st, 1955, carried out all inspectorial duties for the two areas.

The arrangement has been most successful, resulting in a close liaison between the appropriate departments.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Sanitary Inspections—Summary of Visits

Inspection of houses for defects	48
Inspection of houses (re Improvement Grant)	52
Re-inspection of houses as to repairs	51
Inspection of Tents, Vans and Sheds	43
Inspections re overcrowding and housing applications	12
Verminous and Dirty Premises	7
Visits to Houses (Sec. 11, Housing Act, 1936)	160
Drainage inspections	63
Food Preparing Premises—Ice Cream	18
Other Foods	16
Cafes	8
Licensed Premises	11
Infection of Milk Supply	10
Inspections under Milk and Dairies Regulations	36
Slaughterhouses	8
Meat Inspection	401
Knacker Yards	5
Infectious Diseases	19
Food Poisoning, Enquiries, etc.	17
Disinfections and Fumigations	12
Samples of Water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations	55
Visits re Water Supply	177
Ditches and Water Courses	25
Public Cleansing Service	117
Visits re Nightsoil Collection	88
Refuse Tips Supervision	109
Refuse Receptacles	46
Accumulations of Refuse	15
Rodent Control	90
Keeping of Animals	6
Provision of Sanitary Accommodation (including Schools)	33
Privy Conversions	16
Factories (including Bakehouses)	36
Shops Acts	19
Smoke Observations	6
Other Nuisances	21
Miscellaneous Visits	34
TOTAL	1,890

Notices served during year	No. served	No. Complied with (Served 19 5 and previously)
Informal notices and letters as to general matters	47	40
Verbal notices as to general matters	39	39
Informal notices to provide dustbins	31	31
Statutory Notices :		
(a) Housing Act, 1936	Nil	Nil
(b) Public Health Act, 1936	Nil	Nil

Complaints received and dealt with during the year.

Total number received	69
General Disrepair of Dwellings	21
Others	48

WATER SUPPLY

There have been a number of alterations with reference to the principal sources of water supply in your district during 1955, and, as indicated in this report last year, the various parishes are supplied as follows :—

Mayfield—The Council are the water authority for this parish.

The source consists of a borehole 252 ft. in the bunter sandstone and the water is pumped into a service reservoir of 50,000 gallons capacity from where the water gravitates to all parts. Electricity became available at the pumping station in 1953, and in February, 1954 the Council installed new pumping equipment, consisting of deep well submersible pumping unit capable of 4,000 gallons per hour, with the result that a better supply is available, and has enabled further farms in the area to receive a supply. An Automatic Chlorinator was ordered in 1955, but not fitted in 1955.

Denstone, Rocester, Stramshall, and Bramshall—Bulk supply from the Urban District Council. The whole of Bramshall now gets the water from this source, and the supply is adequate for all purposes.

Abbots Bromley, Kingstone (part), Newborough (part), Draycott-in-the-Clay (part) and Marchington (part)—These portions of your district lie within the statutory limits of supply of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

Marchington Woodlands Scheme—During the year all properties were connected to the main for those who desired a Mains Supply.

Mayfield, Stanton, Wootton and Ellastone—During 1955, consent was given by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to sink a new borehole, 18in. in diameter, to a depth of 260 feet to test the yield. This was not commenced in 1955.

Beamhurst Water Supply—99% of the properties have been connected to the main.

Great Gate (part), Leigh—Bulk supply from the Cheadle Rural District Council.

Croxden—Supplied by private piped supply.

The villages of Ellastone, Ramshorn, Stanton, Wootton and Okeover rely mainly on surface wells and springs.

The Uttoxeter U.D.C. agreed to a number of connections for water from their main as it runs through your district from Prestwood to Bramshall.

Many of the shallow wells and springs at present in use in certain parts of your district are unreliable both as to quality and quantity.

The Hoar Cross Scheme was completed in 1950 and all have been connected by 1955 (who desired a supply).

Stubwood Water Scheme

Part of Rocester and Denstone Parishes

One of the extensions of the main from Denstone was completed in 1955 at an approved cost of £4,729. The number of premises connected in 1955 is 19 out of a possible 60, but the extension was not completed until October.

Proposed Scheme

The Council have applied to the Ministry for approval for a further extension to supply Alders Brook area, but no approval was received in 1955.

WATER ANALYSIS

The supply of water to the houses and farms in the area is derived from varying sources, ranging from a piped mains supply in some districts to wells and springs in more remote parts of the area.

The supplies to those properties without a piped supply are frequently found to be of unsatisfactory quality. In cases where the water was found to be unfit and measures to remedy same were practicable and reasonable, such work was carried out. Where remedial measures could not be carried out or water mains laid on, users have been advised to boil or sterilise the water before drinking.

Sample of Water from Public Supply—Reservoir, Swinscoe Hill, Mayfield

Bacteriological Examination Report

Date and Hour of Collection 29.8.55 10-45 a.m.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days at 37°C. Nil per 100 ml.

<i>Chemical Analysis</i>	<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Total solid matter dried at 212°F.	30.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen	Nil
Chlorine—present as Chloride	1.6
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.004
Appearance	Clear — no colour
Metallic Contamination	Nil
pH Value	7.3
Total Hardness	—
Permanent Hardness	—
Temporary Hardness	—

WATER SUPPLY

Water samples have been taken regularly for Bacteriological examination and Chemical Analysis, and the following Table shows the result of such sampling.

Source.	No. of Samples taken for Bacterio- logical and Chemical Analysis	Results		
		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Doubt- ful
Wells (Private)	16	3	12	1
Wells (Public)	5	—	5	—
Springs (Private)	7	3	3	1
Springs (Public)	1	—	1	—
Boreholes (Private)	—	—	—	—
Mains Supplies :				
(a) Public	24	23	1	—
(b) Private	2	—	1	1
Total	55	29	23	3

The number of dwelling houses and the approximate population supplied with water directly from public mains is shown below for each Parish :—

Parish	Population of Parish Dec. 1955	Number of houses with piped water supply	Estimated Pop. with piped supply
Abbots Bromley	1,410	234	980
Blithfield	308	24	135
Croxden	202	11	47
Denstone	610	89	363
Draycott-in-the-Clay	890	99	328
Ellastone	294	Nil	Nil
Kingstone	365	66	287
Leigh	940	213	808
Marchington	750	72	322
Mayfield	2,000	437	1,449
Newborough	575	44	186
Okeover	62	Nil	Nil
Ramshorn	62	Nil	Nil
Rocester	1,300	321	1,255
Stanton	260	Nil	Nil
Uttoxeter Rural	1,046	140	609
Wootton	150	Nil	Nil

During 1955 four stand pipes were in use, three in the parish of Mayfield and one in the parish of Rocester.

The number of houses served in Mayfield are 16 and a population of 54. In the case of Rocester one house is served and used by one person.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The existing systems of sewerage and sewage disposal in the three principal villages in your district—namely, Abbots Bromley, Mayfield and Rocester—are most unsatisfactory, and, as pointed out in last year's report, there is no doubt that serious nuisance arises in these parishes as a result. Detailed sewage schemes for each of these three parishes have been drawn up by the Council's Consulting Engineers, and the approval of the Ministry of Health to the work being undertaken is still awaited.

A Sewage Works Attendant has been working on a whole-time basis to carry out the day-to-day maintenance of the sewage works and sewers in the various parishes of your district.

The following work, mainly of the nature of repair and improvement of existing sewage works, was carried out in 1955 :—

<i>Parish</i>		
Myfield	.....	} No major repairs in 1955—two valves for the Stramshall Works fitted.
Stramshall	.....
Denstone	.....

DETAILS OF SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Abbots Bromley

This consists briefly of a collecting chamber and then a land irrigation system. The works are 90 years old, I am informed, and from personal knowledge the effluent from the works is, as far as practical purposes are concerned, untreated. The land is sewage sick and is a breeding ground for flies. In a hot summer—a fly nuisance. A scheme for a modern sewerage system was sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1953. In my opinion the present system is injurious to the health of the inhabitants of Abbots Bromley. In 1951 there were seven cases of Dysentery and in 1952 there were 32 cases. I feel certain the disease when present was spread by flies and no carrier could be found. The present system is insanitary, overloaded and prevents the conversion of pail closets (129) into W.C. and hinders new housing schemes. There were no cases of Dysentery in 1955 or 1954.

Mayfield

The existing system is overloaded, and, in addition, its drainage for the Mill emptyings (430 people) and from a further 46 houses discharge untreated into the River Dove. The conversion of further Earth Closets (200) to W.C. cannot be carried out because of the present inadequate sewerage system. In a warm summer there is a fly nuisance, which is a definite danger to the inhabitants. A new scheme was submitted to the Ministry in 1953.

Rocester

The existing scheme is grossly overloaded and insanitary—there being no satisfactory purification before the effluent is discharged into the river. This prevents the conversion of Earth Closets (100) into W.C. A new scheme was submitted to the Ministry in 1953.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Parishes of Abbots Bromley, Rocester and Mayfield

On the 11th and 12th June, 1953, Col. S. K. Gilbert held a local investigation into three schemes on behalf of the Minister of Housing and Local Government. A visit was made to the three parishes.

In September, 1953, a letter was received by the Clerk from the Ministry in which it was stated that the proposals for the three schemes were approved in principle, but in the cases of

Mayfield and Rocester that the schemes would be deferred. As regards Abbots Bromley, the Minister stated that he would be prepared to consider formal approval for the scheme after receipt of detailed drawings for the new Pumping Station and Disposal Works. This scheme is to be in three stages :—

First Stage	.....	New Disposal Works
Second Stage	.....	New Sewers in Abbots Bromley.
Third Stage	.....	Branch Sewers

During 1954 detailed plans for 1st Stage were submitted to the Ministry for approval.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Endeavour is made to convert as many privy-middens as possible, and this fact, coupled with housing development, has caused an increase in the number of bins to be emptied.

Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, still causes the department anxiety when serving notices for renewal or initial supply of a dustbin, but despite protests from owners, no appeal to a Court has yet been made.

It has been possible to continue a bi-weekly collection from approximately 2,850 dwellings, and this service is afforded to all properties having a reasonably good access road. The total miles covered by the vehicles was 15,590, and 6 men were engaged on this work, and in levelling and soil covering tips.

Two modern type low loading refuse vehicles (12 c.yd. capacity) are used on this work, with a tipper lorry as an auxiliary vehicle.

Refuse disposal continued along the lines of the previous year, the extreme northern part of the district being served by a refuse tip at Clifton, which is outside the Uttoxeter Rural District Council area. By arrangement with the Ashbourne Rural District Council, a portion of their Clifton tip is used, and this prevents a long haul to our own tip at Denstone.

In September, 1952, tipping was commenced at Denstone, where eventually a portion of the canal cutting near the junction of the Ellastone/Alton and Uttoxeter/Denstone roads will be filled.

A useful dual purpose will be fulfilled, as in addition to the disposal of the refuse, valuable ground will be re-claimed for agricultural use.

During 1955 a clay pit (High Ash Brickyard) in the Parish of Abbots Bromley was used for refuse disposal, and it is anticipated that this will provide facilities for approximately 10 years.

The other refuse tips at Marchington and Leigh were again in use during the year, and in continuance of my practice to obtain central tips with a minimum haul for the vehicles, it will be necessary in 1956 to obtain further sites in the above parishes.

As far as is practicable, tipping is “controlled,” and every effort is made to maintain the tips in a hygienic condition, free from nuisance, insect and rat infestation.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION SERVICE

During the year, every endeavour was made to retain a weekly collection service despite the fact of the increasing number of pails to be emptied.

This service, having been instituted in September, 1951, has proved a great asset to the area, particularly as there is no immediate prospect of the sewage schemes being proceeded with.

Complaints do arise that collection does not always take place on the same day each week, although the occupants of the premises making the complaints, did, prior to 1951, have to empty their own pails as a matter of routine.

There are bound to be some lapses from the 7-day collection, as 1 day per month, the vehicle is garaged for greasing, washing, etc.

The vehicle is a 800-gallon cesspool emptying machine, fitted with hopper attachment, and to maintain the ever-increasing pail emptying, it is not possible to carry out cesspool emptying.

The nightsoil is composted with straw and other vegetable matter, and the resultant material of high manurial value has been disposed of to farmers and market gardeners.

The following table shows that 1,047 pails are emptied weekly, and for this purpose the vehicle travelled 11,732 miles.

Collection District	No. of Pails
Abbots Bromley	129
Beamhurst	25
Bramshall	40
Croxden, Great Gate and Stramshall	47
Denstone, Stubwood and Prestwood	35
Draycott-in-the-Clay	73
Ellastone	63
Kingstone	54
Leigh	95
Marchington	89
Mayfield and Okeover	47
Newborough and Hoar Cross	96
Blithfield, Newton and Admaston	20
Ramshorn, Wootton	26
Rocester and District	147
Stanton	37
<hr/>	
Houses in Uttoxeter Urban District Council area	1,023
	24
<hr/>	
TOTAL	1,047

It will be noted that 24 pails from properties within the Uttoxeter Urban district are emptied weekly, and your vehicle is also used for the emptying of pails and tanks at Uttoxeter Racecourse—the cost of all such work is chargeable upon the Urban District Council.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during 1955

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Act	48
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	160
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	30
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	60
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	35

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	33
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
- (ii) Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 5
- (iii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
- (ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

In accordance with the requirements of Section 1 of the above Act, a survey of the housing conditions in the area was carried out by your Sanitary Officers.

A report was prepared which embodied details of houses which should be dealt with under legal housing procedure within the next 5 years.

Properties involved within the 1—5 year programme were given as follows :—

Abbots Bromley	.....	.....	.....	.....	43
Blithfield	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Croxden	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Denstone	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Draycott-in-the-Clay	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Kingstone	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Leigh	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Marchington	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Mayfield	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
Newborough	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Ramshorn	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Rocester	.....	.....	.....	.....	48
Stanton	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Uttoxeter Rural	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Wootton	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Total houses					192

Due to the lack of adequate sewage facilities at Abbots Bromley, Mayfield and Rocester, it is not possible to erect additional

Council houses. This means the Slum Clearance programme is retarded pending Ministry approval to the carrying out of new sewage schemes.

In the Parish of Rocester, 45 houses are included in 2 possible re-development schemes, which in turn are dependent upon provision of adequate sewage disposal works.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

The figures below are extracted from the Annual Report submitted by the Medical Officer of Health to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

(1) Inspections by the Sanitary Inspector for purposes of provision as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Non-Mechanical	3	3	—	—
(2) Mechanical Factories	34	30	1	—
Total	37	33	1	—

(2) Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	1	1
Other offences	—	—

Outworkers.—There are now no outworkers in the district.

RODENT CONTROL

A rodent operative is employed for duties in both the Rural and Urban area and works under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspectors.

Throughout the district a free service of rat disinfection is afforded to residential property, while the cost of the work at business premises is rechargeable.

After deduction for rechargeable work, half the nett cost of wages, materials and travelling expenses is reimbursed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

In September, 1955 the contract with the Military Authorities for work at Sudbury Camp was terminated, as camp personnel were being trained to carry out such work. This enabled your operative to devote more time to district inspection work and the fulfilment of contract work.

In October, a meeting took place which was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (London and Birmingham Divisions), the Chairman of the Rural and Urban Health Committees and your Technical Officers, to discuss the question of Farm surveys and liaison between Local Authorities and the Agricultural Executive Committee.

Satisfaction was expressed at the amount of work carried out in connection with the survey of farms for rat infestation.

Number of Infestations found and dealt with during 1955

(a)	Private dwellings (including Council houses)	176
(b)	Business Premises	34
(c)	Refuse Tips (Local Authority)	17
(d)	Sewage Works (Local Authority)	21

With the exception of sewer treatment and a few “ follow-up ” cases, Zinc Phosphide is no longer used, and has been superseded by Warfarin.

Sudbury Military Camp

From the 1st January to 30th September, rodent control work was carried out at Sudbury Military Camp. This vastly expanding Camp embodies a large vehicular Depot, Military and Civilian Living Quarters, Food Stores, Canteens, Refuse Tips, Sewage Works and approximately 1¼ miles of brook courses.

SEWER TREATMENT

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the treatment of sewers was carried out to ascertain any evidence of rat infestation.

The following tables show the results obtained.

June, 1955

Parish	No. of Manholes Treated	Complete take of test bait	Partial Take	No. Take
Abbots Bromley.....	13	5	4	4
Denstone	7	—	—	7
Ellastone	4	—	—	4
Mayfield	8	—	—	8
Rocester	13	8	—	5
Stramshall	9	—	—	9

Treatment consisted of test bait with damp sausage rusk, followed, where necessary, by the addition of 2½% Zinc Phosphide.

FARM SURVEY FOR RAT INFESTATION

During the year 114 farms were visited to ascertain any rat infestation, and of this number, 6 were found to be infested.

4 farms were disinfested by the Council's operative, and the remaining 2 were referred to the Staffordshire County Pests Officer of the A.E.C.

For this survey work, and the carrying out of all his general duties, your Rodent Operative made 931 inspections and re-inspections.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During 1955 your Sanitary Inspectors made 43 visits in connection with licenced caravans, and caravans temporarily stationed in the area.

Two new licences were granted, 3 licences re-newed for a further 12 months, and 2 licenced caravans were removed from the district.

Regular visits were made to all sites, and as a result of such inspection no Public Health nuisances arose.

LICENSED PREMISES

Visits have been made to various premises within the area to endeavour to obtain adequate facilities for the washing of glasses, etc. Where possible, co-operation has been received, but great difficulties exist in many places, due to the lack of a main piped water supply to the premises concerned.

SHOPS ACT

The Uttoxeter Rural District Council do not possess delegated powers for the administration of certain sections of the Shops Act, but 19 visits were made to shops within the rural areas.

Being a rural community, there are few large shops in the district, the typical being the smaller type of house and combined shop.

Generally, the sanitation is satisfactory, having in mind in many cases, the absence of mains water and sewerage system.

HOUSING

26 houses were completed by this Council during 1955 and none were under construction.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. completed</i>
Leigh	4
Rocester (including 4 bungalows for Old People)	22
	<hr/>
	26
	<hr/>

Housing Waiting List

1—Number of Persons on Housing Waiting List at 1st January, 1955 :—

Abbots Bromley	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
Blithfield	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Denstone	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Draycott-in-the-Clay	.....	.....	.....	.....	45
Ellastone	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Kingstone	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
Leigh	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Marchington	.....	.....	.....	.....	57
Mayfield	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Newborough	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Rocester	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
Uttoxeter Rural	.....	.....	.....	.....	48
Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	<hr/>334 <hr/>

2—Number of persons on Housing Waiting List at 31st December, 1955 :—

Abbots Bromley	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Blithfield	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Denstone	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Draycott-in-the-Clay	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Kingstone	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Leigh	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Marchington	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Mayfield	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Newborough	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Rocester	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Uttoxeter Rural	.....	.....	.....	.....	28 25
Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	<hr/>159 <hr/>

In addition, three houses were completed by private enterprise and five under construction.

No provision is made on the Housing Application Form for applicant to state type of house required.

CIVIL BUILDING LICENCES

Restrictions lifted—No Licences now required.

The very difficult question of the allocation of tenancies of houses continued to receive much consideration by this Council. During the year under review, despite the Council's heavy waiting list of those with no houses at all, opportunity was taken to re-house a small number of overcrowded families who were living under very insanitary conditions. Special regard was had to families comprising a large number of young children, and there is no doubt that the health and well-being of such children has benefitted

by the progressive attitude adopted in this matter by the Council at a time when housing accommodation was in such demand.

Number of Council houses at end of 1955 :—

Pre-War	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	130
Post-War	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	398 ⁴
Total						<u>524</u>

IMPROVEMENT GRANT—Housing Act, 1949

Forty-six applications received during 1955.

44 Approved.

1 Refused.

1 Withdrawn.

Total Value of Work—£20,321.

Total Grant—£9,359.

FOOD INSPECTION

Particulars of Food inspected during 1955

(a) Meat ; Carcases inspected and condemnations made.

	Cows and Bulls	Heifers and Bullocks	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and notified	37	245	3	810	239
Number inspected	37	245	3	810	239
All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	1	2	—
Part or organ „	9	30	—	58	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	24.3%	12.2%	33.3%	7.4%	4.6%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Part or organ „	10	15	—	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	27%	6.1%	—	—	2.1%
Cysticercosis	—	—	—	—	—
Weight of meat condemned for Tuberculosis					760-lbs.
„ „ „ „ „ Other diseases					959-lbs.
Total weight of meat condemned					1,719-lbs.
(b) Other foods condemned.					
Boned Beef					112-lbs.
Total weight of all food condemned					1,831-lbs.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Within the district are 5 slaughterhouses, which are licenced for use until 31st July, 1957.

These premises proved adequate for the needs of the rural area, and as a result of regular visits for meat inspection, the slaughterhouses were kept under constant supervision.

The premises generally are old, not well sited, and lack amenities, but in all circumstances are well kept by the occupants.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1954

In accordance with the above legislation, 17 licences were granted to expire December, 1956, and of this number 3 empowered the slaughter of horses within the Uttoxeter Rural area.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES, SHOPS, ETC.

During the year the food preparing premises in the district were subjected to regular visits and inspections.

Where required by statute the appropriate premises are registered, and these include 31 for the storage and sale of Pre-wrapped Ice Cream, and 7 for the preparation or manufacture of preserved food.

No ice cream is manufactured in the rural district, the commodity being "pre-wrapped" and obtained from reputable firms.

The food shops in general are well kept, having in mind in some areas, the lack of mains water and water carried sewage system.

Action under Diseases of Animals Act

1.—Anthrax Order, 1938 :

Two confirmed cases.

Ten cases not confirmed.

2.—Swine Fever Order, 1938 :

No notifications received.

3.—Cases dealt with under Tuberculosis Order, 1938 :

Five.

4.—Form A Restriction under Tuberculosis Order—Four issued by Ministry Veterinary Surgeon.

Bacteriological Results—Uttoxeter Rural District Council Milk Samples, 1955

1.—Brucella Abortus—No positive case.

2.—Biological Test for Tubercle Bacilli :

(a) Found positive in 9 cases.

(b) Not found, ~~109~~ 101 cases.

3.—Action under Milk and Dairies Act :

(a) Diversion Order in two cases.

(b) Informal letter in 7 cases as all milk was submitted for heat treatment prior to retailing.

Public Health Propaganda

No exhibition was staged during 1955 but during the year advisory information was sent to all food shops, cafes and canteens.

A Dog Notice Card is displayed in Food Shops, Cafes and Restaurants but displayed in fewer shops in 1955.

I am glad to report that all help was accepted in the spirit in which it was sent—To help.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During 1955 the number of notifications received with respect to the various infectious diseases other than Tuberculosis was as follows :—

<i>To</i> <i>Hospital</i>	<i>Infectious Disease</i>	1955	<i>No. of Cases</i> 1954 1953	
Nil.	Measles	349	14	80
4	Scarlet Fever	10	8	6
1	Whooping Cough	11	13	72
—	Acute Pneumonia	2	4	1
—	Food Poisoning	4	19	25
19	Diphtheria	19	Nil.	Nil.
—	Erysipelas	2	3	2
—	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Nil	Nil	Nil
—	Acute Poliomyelitis (Non- Paralytic)	Nil	Nil	Nil
—	Dysentery	Nil	Nil	Nil
—	Paratyphoid	Nil	Nil	Nil
—	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	2	Nil
—	Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	Nil	Nil
—	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Nil	Nil	1
—		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
24		397	63	187
—		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

In comparison with 1954, the number of cases of Food Poisoning and Whooping Cough decreased, but the number of cases of Diphtheria and Measles increased.

The parishes where most cases of Whooping Cough occurred were Denstone and Kingston, whereas in regard to Measles the parishes concerned were Abbots Bromley, Denstone, Kingston, Leigh, Mayfield and Rocester. With regard to Scarlet Fever, three cases of the ten notified were in Abbots Bromley and three were in Kingston. Pneumonia, two cases, one in Mayfield and one in Rocester.

The age distribution of the cases of Measles demonstrates that most cases occur in the age groups 3—4 years and 10—14 years ; for Scarlet Fever most fall into the age group 3—4 years and 10—14 ; for Whooping Cough most cases fall into two groups, under 1 and 5—9 years ; the distribution in the case of pneumonia occurs in two age groups, one under 1 and over 25. For Erysipelas in group over 25.

With regard to all infectious diseases, I feel the year of 1955 has been a satisfactory one—this is supported by the tables for the Rural Districts in the county.

All cases of Measles, Pneumonia and of Erysipelas were nursed at home. Four cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to hospital, the others had the necessary space to be isolated at home.

During 1955 no deaths were reported from Diphtheria, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Poliomyelitis or Acute Primary Pneumonia, but three deaths were recorded from Secondary Pneumonia and no death was recorded from Whooping Cough.

With regard to the months of “ most cases „ :—

	<i>Uttoxeter R.D.</i>	<i>Uttoxeter U.D.</i>
Measles	May, June and July	April, May and June (144 out of 179)
Whooping Cough	May and June	July
Pneumonia.....	Feb. and March	None
Scarlet Fever	March	March, May and October

Poliomyelitis—Paralytic and Non-Paralytic

No case notified in 1955.

Food Poisoning

Four cases notified in 1955, whereas 19 cases were notified in 1954. Two cases in the 2nd quarter and 2 cases in 3rd quarter. One Family involved in each case.

Summary of Food Poisoning for 1955

All cases were due to faulty handling of the food in the house concerned ; no food poisoning germs isolated.

Three occurred in adults, all the adults were over 40 years of age, one case occurred in a baby of 2 years—all occurred in the parishes of Abbots Bromley and were notified as suspected cases by the same doctor—investigation yielded a negative report for Salmonella Germs.

Measles

The number increased from 14 in 1954 to 349 in 1955, a marked increase.

Scarlet Fever

There was a slight increase—2 cases more. One case in a Hospital had the diagnosis altered.

Whooping Cough

The number of cases of Whooping Cough decreased from 13 to 11.

Dysentery

No cases notified in 1955.

Nineteen notifications of Diphtheria were received during 1955 a marked increase.

Ophthalmic Neonatorum

No cases were notified.

Infectious Diseases

School Investigations during 1955

1. A visit was made to a school in Abbots Bromley concerning the outbreak of Diarrhoea among the children of one family. It was found that the outbreak was not due to a germ, nor was it due to faulty handling of the food in the school canteen.

Diphtheria—Loxley Hall Special School

Between 22nd November and 2nd December, 1955, 19 confirmed cases of Diphtheria were admitted to Bucknall Isolation Hospital, and also 18 carriers. Of the proved cases one was of a severe type, 2 were moderate and 16 were mild. No deaths occurred in the proved cases or in the carriers. All carriers were treated and discharged to their homes by the end of December and were subjected to future inspection and throat swabs prior to returning to school in January.

As regards the cases one boy was discharged to his own home on the 9th January, 1956, after having 3 clear throat swabs. After a week at home his throat was swabbed and when found clear he was allowed to return to school. The other proved cases were discharged as each was found clear of diphtheria germs and each was further isolated at their own home for one week and had throat swabs taken.

This outbreak clearly demonstrates that children living in a residential school should be immunised against Diphtheria and have the necessary booster injections up to the age of 11 years.

By strict isolation of all staff the outbreak was confined to the school.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP. AGE PERIOD IN YEAR, 1955

	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25 years and over	Age Un- known	Totals	Total
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	
Measles	4 3	26 27	40 29	90 90	8 21	1 3	2 5	- -	171 178	349
Scarlet Fever	- -	- -	2 1	1 1	2 1	- 1	1 -	- -	6 4	10
Whooping Cough	4 2	- 1	- -	- 3	- 1	- -	- -	- -	4 7	11
Acute Pneumonia	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	1 1	2
Food Poisoning	- -	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 2	- -	1 3	4
Erysipelas	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 2	- -	- 2	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-
(Paralytic) (Non-Paralytic)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-
Dysentery	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-
Paratyphoid	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-
Ophthalmia	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-
Diphtheria	- -	- -	- -	1 -	18 -	- -	- -	- -	19 -	19

Table giving names of Parishes and the number of houses and approximate population which each contains, along with the incidence of infectious disease in each Parish, during 1955.

No. of Houses in 1951 Census	Name of Parish	No. of Ho'ses	Population of Parish, Dec., 1955	INFECTIOUS DISEASE.						Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Dysentery	Ophthalmia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Diphtheria
				Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Pneumonia	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas							
339	Abbots Bromley	355	1,410	63	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
76	Blithfield	78	308	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
71	Croxden	74	202	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
162	Denstone	174	610	37	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
148	Draycott-in-the-Clay	166	890	17	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
86	Ellastone	90	294	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
89	Kingstone	109	365	43	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
251	Leigh	269	940	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
205	Marchington	211	750	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
356	Mayfield	487	2,000	70	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
139	Newborough	149	575	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14	Okeover	15	62	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	Ramshorn	18	62	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
363	Rocester	422	1,300	42	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
63	Stanton	70	260	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
276	Uttoxeter Rural	318	1,046	13	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
38	Wootton	45	150	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2,691	TOTALS	3,050	11,224	349	10	11	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	19

**Infectious Disease.—Incidence in 1955 compared
with the eleven previous years.**

Disease	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944
Scarlet Fever	10	8	6	14	11	16	7	50	9	10	20	34
Diphtheria	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	11	13	72	39	56	20	41	36	18	19	11	28
Measles	349	14	80	143	34	95	127	122	108	14	53	130
Erysipelas	2	3	2	2	3	6	7	2	1	—	3	—
Acute Pneumonia	2	4	1	6	9	7	1	3	2	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	4	19	25	4	—	—	—	3	6	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	32	7	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	1	2	9	1	1	1	—	1	1
Ophthalmia n' natorum	—	2	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Infectious Disease 1955—Months of Occurrence.

Month	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whoop- ing Cough	Acute Pneu- monia	Food Pois- oning	Erysipelas	Acute Polio- myelitis		Dysen- tery	Para- typhoid	Cpthalmia	P. Pyrexia	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Diphtheria
							Paralytic	Non- Paralytic						
Jan.	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feb.	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mar.	6	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Apr.	30	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	91	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	116	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
July	78	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aug.	19	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sept.	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oct.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nov.	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Dec.	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Totals	349	10	11	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	19

For your information I give details regarding infectious diseases in the Rural Districts of Staffordshire (10)—1955.

	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Ty- phoid Fever and Paraty- phoid	Acute Primary Pneu- monia	Dysen- tery	Acute Poliomyelitis		Food Poison- ing	Tuberculosis		
						Para- lytic	Non- Para- lytic		Lung	Brain	Other
1st Quarter	66	—	—	33	31	1	—	2	24	1	3
2nd Quarter	41	—	—	21	15	—	—	11	32	0	9
3rd Quarter	13	—	1	13	7	5	1	18	23	2	4
4th Quarter	39	19	1	14	29	10	1	4	23	3	7
TOTALS FOR 1955	154	19	2	81	82	16	2	35	102	6	23
TOTALS FOR 1954	213	—	—	119	111	5	3	30	101	5	24

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Under the National Health Scheme, 1946, this responsibility passes to the Local Health Authority, upon which is laid the obligation to arrange for the immunisation of all persons in the area of the Authority (Section 26).

As in previous years, it was possible during 1955 for parents to have their children immunised by their own family doctor free of charge. Immunisation was also available at the Infant Welfare Centre in Uttoxeter and special immunising sessions were also held at the various schools in Uttoxeter Rural District.

The number of children in the Uttoxeter Rural District who completed a full course of primary immunisation against Diphtheria during 1955 was as follows :—

Children of less than 4 years of age	.....	.....	95
Children aged 4 years to 14 years of age	.....	.....	36
Total	.....	.....	<hr/>131 <hr/>

The following children aged 4 to 14 years of age received a single reinforcing injection	135
--	-------	-------	-----

The estimated percentage of the mid-1955 child population in your district immunised against Diphtheria up to 31st December, 1955 was :—

Under 4 years of age	.....	.....	.....	71.3%
Four to 14 years of age	.....	.....	.....	43.0%
All children	.....	.....	.....	57.1%

The above percentages are low, especially with respect to the 4 to 14 years of age group.

The fall is due, I feel, to a number of factors including the fear of the child developing Poliomyelitis, family illness and the delay in having this protection.

An inoculation campaign has been held during the year with some success, and will be continued in 1956. I hope with more success. I hope to raise the under 4 group to 80% and the 4 to 14 years up to 75%.

During 1955 19 notifications were received with respect to this disease—last case was in 1944.

In this county in 1955 there were 11 cases of Diphtheria in Urban Districts and 19 cases in Rural Districts. For England and Wales there were 161 proved cases in 1955 and 13 deaths.

UTTOXETER RURAL DISTRICT.
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SINCE 1943.

Year	Number of Protected Children		Total	Number of children receiving reinforcing doses
	Under 4 years	4—14 years		
1955	95	36	131	135
1954	34	124	168	181
1953	71	18	89	100
1952	95	28	123	209
1951	104	9	113	142
1950	43	6	49	3
1949	165	20	185	143
1948	106	84	190	271
1947	85	1	86	33
1946	110	7	117	—
1945	29	2	31	—
1944	41	8	49	—
1943	172	245	417	—

The above figures refer only to children whose record of immunisation has been received in the Public Health Department.

Incidence of Diphtheria in the Uttoxeter Rural District during the last 17 years

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Cases proved</i>				
1955	19
1954	Nil
1953	Nil
1952	Nil
1951	Nil
1950	Nil
1949	Nil
1948	Nil
1947	Nil
1946	Nil
1945	Nil
1944	2
1943	Nil
1942 (Non-Civilian)	1
1941	4
1940	4
1939	14

Average annual incidence (including non-civilian cases), 2.5.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

No notifications were received during the year with respect to cases of pulmonary tuberculosis or cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Deaths

There were no deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1955 and no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The age and sex distribution of these new cases and deaths were as shown below :—

New Cases

Age Periods	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
One year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Deaths

Age Periods	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Death Rate from Tuberculosis per 1,000 estimated population

Death Rate from Tuberculosis (all forms)	Nil
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Nil
Death Rate from other forms of Tuberculosis	Nil
Age of Death from Surgical Tuberculosis for Rural Area is	Nil

Tuberculosis in the Uttoxeter Rural District, showing for each of the last 13 years the new cases and the deaths, classified as pulmonary and non-pulmonary. The death rate per million from all forms is also given.

Year	Population	New Cases		Deaths		Death Rates per 1,000,000 population
		Pul.	Non-Pul	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
1955	11,150	—	—	—	—	—
1954	11,100	—	—	1	1	180
1953	11,350	4	1	—	1	80
1952	11,170	2	1	1	—	80
1951	10,840	4	4	—	1	90
1950	10,710	8	1	1	1	160
1949	10,950	5	6	3	—	280
1948	10,710	4	3	2	3	373
1947	9,900	3	—	4	1	500
1946	9,710	2	—	—	2	210
1945	9,400	1	1	1	1	210
1944	9,580	2	1	2	1	310
1943	9,710	5	3	4	2	620

**Table giving Details of Mortality Rate per Thousand
in this County, 1955, all Forms**

Combined Rate for Uttoxeter Urban and Rural						
District .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Uttoxeter U.D. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Uttoxeter R.D. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Results of Milk Samples (Ungraded) for 1955

The following results have been received from the County Medical Officer of Health :—

	<i>Results</i>						
	% Failed Methy- lene Blue test	No. of Samples	Examination for Cleanliness		T.B.		% Pos.
			Satisfactory	Failed	+	—	
Uttoxeter Urban	12.7%	62	54	8	1	15	6.2
Uttoxeter Rural	26.04%	192	142	50	2	101	1.9
Turbidity Test			18 Tested	All passed			
Phosphatase Test.....			70 Tested	70 passed			

The test for cleanliness is known as the Methylene Blue Test. It is pleasing to note that the results for 1955 are low. In the cases where cleanliness examination was unsatisfactory I requested the co-operation of the Area Milk Production Officer. Where Tubercle Bacilli were found I enlisted the co-operation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Inspector.

UTTOXETER RURAL DISTRICT

Summary of Retail Milks sampled by the County Health Department during the year 1955. Taken on behalf of the Uttoxeter Rural District Council

Designation	No. of samples taken	Cleanliness test Methylene Blue		Phosphatase test (for Pasteurisation)		Biological test (for T.B.)		Turbidity test for Sterilization	
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass	Fail	Neg.	Pos.	Pass	Fail
Undesignated	75	40	35 (46.6%)	—	—	69	2 (2.8%)	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	47	40	7	—	—	29	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	35	31	4	35	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	35	31	4	35	—	3	—	—	—
Sterilized	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—
TOTAL	210	142	50	70	—	101	2	18	—

With regard to the results of the biological test, in addition to the two positive cases mentioned in the above table for the Area, there should be another seven positive cases as enumerated below :—

- (a) *County of Stafford.* One taken in December, 1954 and reported as positive in January, 1955. This was counted in the County Report for 1954, but not in the Rural for 1954. The other two as mentioned on above table.
- (b) *Samples taken out with this County.* Six positive reports were received from Birmingham (taken from dairies in that City).

Uttoxeter Rural District

Details of samples taken during the period 1st January, 1955 to 31st December, 1955 by the County Food Inspectors under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 1 and 2.

<i>Name of Article</i>	<i>No. of samples submitted</i>	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Adulterated</i>
Pasteurised Milk	3	3	
T.T. Milk	2	2	
T.T. Pasteurised Milk	3	3	
Sterilized	2	2	
Total Milk samples	10	10	
Ham Spread	1	1	
Ground Ginger	1	1	
Scottish Haggis	1	1	
Treacle Butta Sweets	1	1	
Noodle Soup Mix	1	1	
Granulated Gelatine	1	1	
Portugese Sardines in Olive Oil	1	1	
Horseradish Relish	1	1	
Mint Sauce	1	1	
Corn Flour	1	1	
Lozenge of Oil of Spearmint	1	1	
Bland's Iron Pills	1	1	
Sugar Tinted Crystals	1	1	
Cheshire Cheese	1	1	
Malt Vinegar	1	1	
Ham :oaf	1		1
Total General Food Samples	16	15	1
Total no. of samples	26	25	1

Ham Loaf.—No statement of ingredients—Labels being amended.

Uttoxeter Rural District

Milk	178	174	4
Milk, Tuberculin Tested	176	173	3
Total	354	347	7

“ Appeal to Cow ” samples

	<i>Up to Standard</i>	<i>Below Standard</i>
Milk	4	6
Milk, Tuberculin Tested	—	—

Proceedings

Milk containing added water. Fines £12. Special costs £8 11s.

Control of Ice Lollies

Although no difficulties have been experienced in this area, I feel I should draw to your notice that there is at present no legal control.

Many areas are urging their Rural Association to press the Minister of Health to exercise his power and make a Regulation laying down minimum standards of composition and authorising registration of premises where the lollies are manufactured.

At present the examination of such yields a wide variation, the total solids, including sugars, range from 21% to 0.56%. Some contain a relatively large amount of saccharin. Some contain fruit juice, milk or ice cream—in this case it is felt that this special type of lolly should be the subject of special standards.

Effect of Agenised Bread—Nitrogen Trichloride

To most flour used in the making of bread Agene is added to bleach the flour. It is claimed by certain doctors that Agene is at least one of the causative factors in human beings of nerve disorders and disease of the stomach. At present the Medical Research Council, in association with the Ministry of Food and Health, are investigating the question. No official report issued in 1955.

Fog

Fog occurred in January and March, also in the last three months of the year.

Total : 11 days in 1955. No Smog. No ill effect traced.

In this area the smoke pollution was not high.

Total Rainfall

26.70 inches. 2.12 inches below long period average.

Snow

9.5 inches. 8 inches fell in January and February.

Total Sunshine

1,506 hours. 157 hours more than long period average.

There were 88 sunless days.

Winds

January	.....	.....	Westerly and cold Easterly.
February	.....	.....	Cold East but Mainly North-West
March	.....	.....	Cold, East and South West
April	.....	.....	Westerly.
May	.....	.....	Westerly.
June	.....	.....	Westerly
July	.....	.....	Variable.
August	.....	.....	North-East and Westerly.
September	.....	.....	Westerly.
October	.....	.....	North to North-West.
November	.....	.....	Variable.
December	.....	.....	Variable.

WEATHER SUMMARY

Monthly, 1955

January

Cold and dry.

February

Cold and Bright.

March

Cold and Bright.

April

A Warm month.

May

A cold Month.

June

Wet, dull and cool.

July

Hot and Sunny—Sunshine record for Month.

August

Warm and Dry.

September

Warm and sunny.

October

Bright and Sunny.

November

Comparatively dry.

December

Comparatively warm.

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS, 1955

Details supplied by Mr. Smith, Meteorological Station, 2nd Order,
sited at factory of Messrs. C. H. Elkes & Sons, Uttoxeter—295 ft. above M.S.L.

Month	Shade Temperature Max. Mean. Min. degrees F.	Mean Earth Temperature at 4ft. degrees F.	Mean Humidity at 9 hours %	Total Rain- fall "	No. of days with 0.01" or more	No. of days with 0.04" or more	Tempera- ture Max. Min. degrees F.	Total Sun- shine hours	No. of days of			Thun- der	Fog Visi- bility under 500 yds.	Ground Frost 30.4 degrees or under	In Milli- metres. Air Pressure. Min. Max.
									Snow	Snow lying at 9 hrs.	Max. depth noted ins.				
Jan.	40.2—29.5	38.5	81.7	2.42"	17	13	52—12	32½	9	11	4"	—	3	14	739—768
Feb.	39.2—27.1	37.3	81	2.03"	13	11	52—14	80½	10	15	4"	—	—	23	733—767
March	44.8—29.7	35.5	79	2.64"	9	6	53—19	142½	6	2	½"	—	2	23	740—758
April	57.5—39.5	42.7	80.2	1.69"	13	11	66—29	152½	—	—	—	—	—	8	748—772
May	57.5—40	46.4	78.2	3.07"	19	14	71—30	193½	1	—	—	1	—	6	740—764
June	64 —47	52.4	78.7	3.92"	16	12	74—33	110½	—	—	—	—	—	1	Mean of 757
July	74.8—52.2	57.9	70	1.03"	4	4	84—47	246½	—	—	—	2	—	—	Mean of 761
August	74.6—53.7	60.3	80	1.17"	9	6	83—43	173½	—	—	—	1	—	—	Not Given
Sept.	66.2—46.8	57.3	83	2.11"	14	10	78—36	145	—	—	—	1	—	—	748—768
Oct.	57.1—38.3	51.7	84	1.83"	13	11	70—21	134½	—	—	—	—	2	8	736—766
Nov.	49.9—36.3	45.3	86	2.34"	9	7	62—22	56½	—	—	—	—	2	13	742—774
Dec.	47.1—33.6	41.5	83.7	2.45"	21	18	57—17	37½	2	3	1"	—	2	14	730—768

Action under National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47, and Amendment Act, Section 48

During 1955 no court action was required. All cases needing attention were dealt with by persuasion or by being removed to a relative or getting a friend to take care of them.

Clean Food Guild

During 1953 the formation of a Clean Food Guild was discussed, but it was decided to defer such a guild until a better water supply and sanitation could be made available—the Proposed Water and Sewerage Schemes have not been sanctioned in 1955.

Joint Old People's Committee

During 1955 the Committee continued its useful work in the Urban and Rural Districts and gave assistance to all aged in need of help and comfort.

The Home has been in great demand and has served a most useful need.

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